

## MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM

Molluscum contagiosum is caused by a virus. Small round white bumps appear on the sex organs, abdomen or inner thighs. The bumps range in size from tiny to the size of a pencil eraser.

### **How do I know I have molluscum contagiosum?**

The bumps will appear about one to three months after sexual activity with someone who has or had molluscum contagiosum.

### **What do I do if I think I have molluscum contagiosum?**

Go to your local health district or health care provider. They can tell if you have molluscum contagiosum by looking at the bumps. The health care provider will either freeze, squeeze, or apply a liquid to the bumps. It is important that you do not scratch the bumps as this may spread the virus.

### **What about my partner?**

Your sex partner(s) should also have an exam and be treated. Don't have sex with your partner(s) until your health care provider says it's okay. Your health district is willing to help you contact your partner(s).

### **How can I avoid getting molluscum contagiosum?**

- Have sex with only one person who is not infected and who only has sex with you.
- Use latex condoms correctly every time you have any sexual contact.
- Look at your partner's genitals before sexual activity. If you see any bumps, sores, or a rash, do not have sex. Talk to your partner.
- Decide not to have sex — it's the only 100% sure way of avoiding molluscum contagiosum and other sexually-transmitted diseases.
- When you use drugs and alcohol it's hard to make good decisions about your sexual activity . . . be safe.
- Remember: Anyone who is sexually active can get a sexually-transmitted disease — including HIV!

### **Where can I learn more about molluscum contagiosum?**

Call your personal health care provider or district health office. For referrals and additional information contact the National STD Hotline at (800) 227-8922 or for local Idaho Referrals and information the Idaho CareLine at (800) 926-2588.

